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Donations to hurricane relief effort

The Mississippi Baptist Convention Board (MBCB) is accepting donations to fund both the immediate needs and long-term Mississippi Baptist disaster relief efforts along the Gulf Coast and throughout the state. Checks should be made payable to MBCB, with "Hurricane Relief" noted on the memo line, and mailed to MBCB Business Office, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Fully 100% of the donations will be used directly for hurricane relief. More information on how to contribute can be obtained by calling (601) 292-3206, or e-mailing mbcbdisasterrelief@mbcb.org.

MAJOR DAMAGE — The hurricane resistant superstructure of the main building at Gulfshore Assembly in Pass Christian remained standing after a direct hit from Hurricane Katrina on August 29, but the first two floors were wiped out and most of the other buildings on the site were completely destroyed. Mississippi Baptist Convention President Gene Henderson has appointed a nine-person committee to study the future of the convention's conference ministries, including Gulfshore Assembly. (BR photo by Jerry Sanford)

By William H. Perkins Jr.
Editor

Former Tupelo Mayor Larry Otis will lead a special Conference Ministries Study Committee appointed by Mississippi Baptist Convention President Gene Henderson to chart the course of the convention's conference ministries in the 21st century, after Hurricane Katrina nearly destroyed Gulfshore Assembly in Pass Christian on August 29.

"South"Mississippi has been devastated by Hurricane Katrina. In addition to the devastation of most of our churches on the Gulf Coast, our Gulfshore Assembly in Pass Christian has sustained significant destruction.

"Therefore, with the encouragement of the Mississippi Baptist Convention

Board's Executive Committee and Jim Futral, executive director/treasurer of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, I am appointing a committee to study the condition of Gulfshore Assembly and to explore all possibilities related to our conference ministries in Mississippi and to bring a report and recommendations to the Executive Committee, the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, and the 2006 Mississippi Baptist Convention.

"The committee is composed of nine members, representative of all Mississippi Baptists," said Henderson, pastor of First Church, Brandon.

In addition to Otis, who is a member of Calvary Church, Tupelo, Conference Ministries Study Committee members include:

- Eric Clark, Mississippi Secretary of State and member of First Church, Brandon. He is a member of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.
- Buddy Huff, member of First Church, Jackson.
- Bill Hurt, pastor of First Church, Natchez.
- Bobby Kirk, member of Roundaway Church, Doddsville. He currently serves as secretary of the executive committee of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.
- Dell Scoper, member of First Church, Laurel.
- P.J. Scott, retired pastor of First Church, Olive Branch. He is a member of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board and the board's executive committee.
- Lloyd Sweatt, pastor of Meadowood Church, Amory. He is a member of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board and the board's executive committee.
- Betty Davis, president of the Mississippi Woman's Missionary Union and member of First Church, McComb.

"Pray for these leaders who have accepted this strategic work and heavy responsibility," Henderson said.

Gulfshore Assembly was gutted during Hurricane Katrina's landfall. The superstructure of the main building, designed with hurricane resistant features, withstood the brunt of the storm but everything on the first two floors was washed away. Kelly Auditorium, the staff housing complex, and other buildings were destroyed.

The Gulfshore site is also known as Henderson Point and was once home to a popular local resort, Inn-by-the-Sea. Prior to World War II, the federal government bought the property from the resort owners and converted it into the national Merchant Marine Cadet Basic School. The first classes were held in 1939 and continued until about 1947.

Mississippi Baptists purchased the property in a 1958 government auction and began using the facility as a conference center.

In August 1969, Hurricane Camille destroyed Gulfshore Assembly and Camp Kittiwake, the nearby Royal Ambassadors beachfront encampment. A study committee was appointed and recommended rebuilding Gulfshore Assembly with the hurricane resistant features. Camp Kittiwake was not rebuilt, and the Royal Ambassadors encampment near Kosciusko named Central Hills Retreat was developed in its place.

Gulfshore Assembly and Central Hills Retreat are owned by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, while Camp Garaywa, the Girls in Action encampment in Clinton, is owned by the Mississippi Woman's Missionary Union.

For more information and photographs describing the condition of Gulfshore Assembly, visit www.mbc.org and click on the Hurricane Katrina crawl.

Pastor's Conference set October 31

The 2005 Mississippi Baptist Pastors' Conference will be held October 31 in the Sanctuary of First Church, Jackson, with the first session beginning at 1:30 p.m. This year's theme is We are Soldiers, Sound the Trumpet.

The first session will feature the preaching of Albert Wilkerson, pastor of First Church, Ripley; Tommy Mitchell, pastor of Agricola Church, Agricola; and Dean Register, pastor of Temple Church, Hattiesburg. The evening session begins at 6:30 p.m. with preaching by Randy Davis, pastor of First Church, Sieerville, Tn.; Fred Wolfe of Barnabus Ministries in Orange Beach, Al.; and Jerry Vines, who recently retired as pastor of First Church, Jacksonville, Fl. Providing worship music leadership will be Evangelists Danny Wolfe of Huntsville, Al., and Steve and Becky Carver of One Way Ministries in Mathiston.

Don Boone, pastor of First Church, Louisville, is president of the Mississippi Baptist Pastor's Conference. Joe Turner, pastor of First Church, Horn Lake, is president-elect. Evangelist Ronnie Cottingham, president of Jus' Jesus Ministries in Lucedale, is secretary-treasurer.

Admission is free. For more information, contact Cottingham at Jus' Jesus Ministries, (601) 947-7167 or (888) 391-7760. Email: ronnie@ronniecottingham.com.

Comm. to study conference ministries



MAJOR DAMAGE — The hurricane resistant superstructure of the main building at Gulfshore Assembly in Pass Christian remained standing after a direct hit from Hurricane Katrina on August 29, but the first two floors were wiped out and most of the other buildings on the site were completely destroyed. Mississippi Baptist Convention President Gene Henderson has appointed a nine-person committee to study the future of the convention's conference ministries, including Gulfshore Assembly. (BR photo by Jerry Sanford)



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The Forces of Good may have lost a couple of weeks ago in the spectacular legislative battle to prevent land-based gambling in Mississippi, but there were many right-thinking representatives and senators who withstood the withering pressure from the Governor, his pro-gambling supporters, and a fleet of well-heeled lobbyists. They voted against the odious House Bill 45 and should be roundly commended for it. Among the "nay" votes were a solid cadre of Mississippi Baptists. Their names and church memberships are as follows:

House of Representatives

- **Brian Aldridge** — First Church, Tupelo.
- **Larry Baker** — First Church, Senatobia.
- **Jim Beckett** — First Church, Bruce.
- **Scott Bounds** — First Church, Philadelphia.
- **Gary Chism** — Mt. Zion Church, Columbus.
- **Bo Eaton** — First Church, Taylorsville.
- **Jim Ellington** — Alta Woods Church, Jackson.

- **Joey Fillingane** — Oral Church, Sumrall.
- **Mark Formby** — First Church, Picayune.
- **Herb Frierson** — First Church, Poplarville.
- **James Gregory** — Good Hope Church, Louisville.
- **Philip Gunn** — Morrison Heights Church, Clinton.
- **Steve Horne** — Oak Grove Church, Meridian.

Heroes of the vote

- **Bobby Howell** — Kilmichael Church, Kilmichael.
- **Joey Hudson** — Bethel Church, Montecello.
- **Mark Lott** — Petal-Harvey Church, Petal.
- **Warner McBride** — Good Hope Church, Batesville.
- **Billy McCoy** (Speaker) — Gaston Church, Booneville.
- **Harvey Moss** — Tate Church, Corinth.
- **Billy Nicholson** — Little Rock Church, Little Rock.
- **Deryk Parker** — Agricola Church, Lucedale.
- **Dannie Reed** — Chester Church, Ackerman.
- **Tommy Reynolds** — First Church, Water Valley.
- **Eric Robinson** — First Church, Quitman.
- **Clinton Rotenberry** — First Church, Mendenhall.
- **Jeff Smith** — First Church, Columbus.
- **Preston Sullivan** — First Church, Okolona.
- **Shaun Walley** — Unity Church, Leakesville.
- **Tom Weathersby** — First Church, Florence.
- **Carmel Wells-Smith** — First Church, Pascagoula.

Senate

- **Hob Bryan** — First Church, Amory.
- **Videt Carmichael** — New Hope Church, Meridian.
- **Jack Gordon** — First Church, Okolona.
- **Cindy Hyde-Smith** — Macedonia Church, Brookhaven.
- **Gary Jackson** — pastor of Bathesda Church, French Camp.

There were also legislators who are not Mississippi Baptists but nonetheless fought valiantly alongside our brothers and sisters during the gambling special session, as evidenced in the listing below.

Thank God for each one of them who voted against land-based gambling. Show them that you appreciate them in every way you can, because the gambling/political complex in Mississippi that rammed the land-based gambling bill through the Legislature will surely try to punish them for their stand. Aspiring politicians in Mississippi go against the gambling/political complex at their great peril. You can bet the gamblers won't forget who voted against them.

Mississippi Baptists shouldn't forget who voted against the gamblers, either.

Editor's note: We have endeavored to list each legislator's vote and home church as accurately as possible. If we made a mistake or omitted someone, we will gladly issue a correction and apologize upon notification.

How legislators voted on land-based gambling (HB 45)

House of Representatives

YEA-60 (for land-based gambling)

Name	City	District
Akins, Noel	Oxford	12
Bailey, Willie	Greenville	49
Baker, Mark	Brandon	74
Banks, Earle	Jackson	67
Bentz, Leonard	Biloxi	116
Blackmon Jr., Edward	Canton	57
Broomfield, Billy	Moss Point	110
Brown, Cecil	Jackson	66
Burnett, Clara	Tunica	9
Calhoun, Credell	Jackson	68
Carlton, Virginia	Columbia	100
Clark, Bryant	Pickens	47
Clarke, Alyce	Jackson	69
Coleman, Linda	Mound Bayou	29
Coleman, Mary	Jackson	65
Comprett, J.P.	Bay St. Louis	122
Davis, Lee Jarrell	Hattiesburg	102
Dedeaux, Dirk	Gulfport	95
Denny, Bill	Jackson	64
Espy III, Henry	Clarksdale	26
Evans, James	Jackson	70
Flaggs Jr., George	Vicksburg	55
Fredericks, Frances	Gulfport	110
Guice Jr., Daniel	Ocean Springs	114
Hamilton, Frank	Hurley	109
Harrison, Esther	Columbus	41
Hinds Sr., John	Greenville	50
Holland, Steve	Plantersville	16
Holloway Sr., Gregory	Hazlehurst	76
Ishee, Roger	Gulfport	118
Janus, Michael	Biloxi	117
Johnson III, Robert	Natchez	94
Malone, Bennett	Carthage	45
Martinson, Rita	Madison	58
Mayhall Jr., W.T.	Southaven	40
Mayo, John	Clarksdale	25
Moak, Bobby	Bogue Chitto	53
Moore, John	Brandon	60
Morris, Leonard	Batesville	11
Myers, David	McComb	98
Norquist, David	Cleveland	28
Patterson, Randall	Biloxi	115
Peranich, Diane	Pass Christian	121
Read, John	Gautier	112
Reeves, John	Jackson	71
Robinson, W.	Quitman	84

NAY-53 (against land-based gambling)

Name	City	District
Aldridge, Brian	Tupelo	17
Arinder, Tracy	Morton	75
Baker, Larry	Senatobia	8
Barnett, Jim	Brookhaven	92
Beckett, Jim	Bruce	23
Bondurant, Sidney	Grenada	24
Bounds, Scott	Philadelphia	44
Buck, Kelvin	Holly Springs	5
Chism, Gary	Columbus	37
Cummings, Ricky	Iuka	1
Dickson, Reecy	Macon	42
Eaton, Bo	Taylorville	79
Ellington, Jim	Raymond	73
Fillingane, Joey	Sumrall	101
Fleming, Erik	Jackson	72
Formby, Mark	Picayune	109
Franks Jr., Jamie	Mooreville	19
Frierson, Herb	Poplarville	106
Gadd, Jack	Hickory Flat	13
Gibbs, David	West Point	36
Gregory, James	Louisville	43
Gunn, Phillip	Clinton	56
Hamilton, Eugene	Olive Branch	6
Horne, Steve	Meridian	81
Howell, Bobby	Kilmichael	46
Hudson, Joey	Monticello	91
Jennings, Wanda	DeSoto	7
Lott, Mark	Petal	104
Markham Jr., J.B.	G'wood Springs	20
McBride, Warner	Courtland	10
McCorm, Billy	Rienzi	3
Miles, Bill	Fulton	21
Mims, V. Sam	McComb	97

PRESENT

Ellis, Tyrone	Starkville	38
Perkins Sr., William	Greenwood	32
<hr/>		
NOT VOTING		
<hr/>		
Huddleston, Robert	Sumner	30
Middleton, Chuck	Port Gibson	85
Raymond	Laurel	80
Shows, Bobby	Ellisville	89
<hr/>		
ABSENT		
Masterson, Chester	Vicksburg	54

NAY-21 (against land-based gambling)

Name	City	District
Browning, Nickey	Pontotoc	3
Bryan, Hob	Amory	7
Butler, Kelvin	Magnolia	38
Carmichael, Videt	Meridian	33
Flowers, Merle	Southaven	19
Frazier, Hillman	Jackson	27
Gordon, Jack	Okolona	8
Hyde-Smith, Cindy	Brookhaven	39
Jackson, Gary	French Camp	15
King Jr., Tom	Petal	44
Lee, Perry	Mendenhall	35
Little, Travis	Corinth	4
Mettetel, Nolan	Sardis	10
Nunnelee, Alan	Tupelo	6
Pickering, Stacey	Soso	42
Thomas, Joseph	Yazoo City	21
Tollison, Gray	Oxford	9
Turner, Bennie	West Point	16
Walley, Shannon	Leakesville	43
White, Richard	Terry	29
Wilemon Jr., J.P.	Belmont	5
<hr/>		
PRESENT		
Gillott, Tommy	Biloxi	50
<hr/>		
ABSENT		
Harvey, Billy	Prentiss	41

Mississippi Senate

YEA-29 (for land-based gambling)

Name	City	District
Albritton, Sid	Picayune	40
Brown, Terry	Columbus	17
Burton, Terry	Newton	31
Chaney, Mike	Vicksburg	23
Clarke, Buck	Hilldale	22
Cuevas, Scotty	Pass Christian	46
Ford, Hernando	Hernando	1
Gillott, Doug	Pass Christian	48
Pass Christian	Natchez	37</

So. Baptists struggling to deliver quake aid

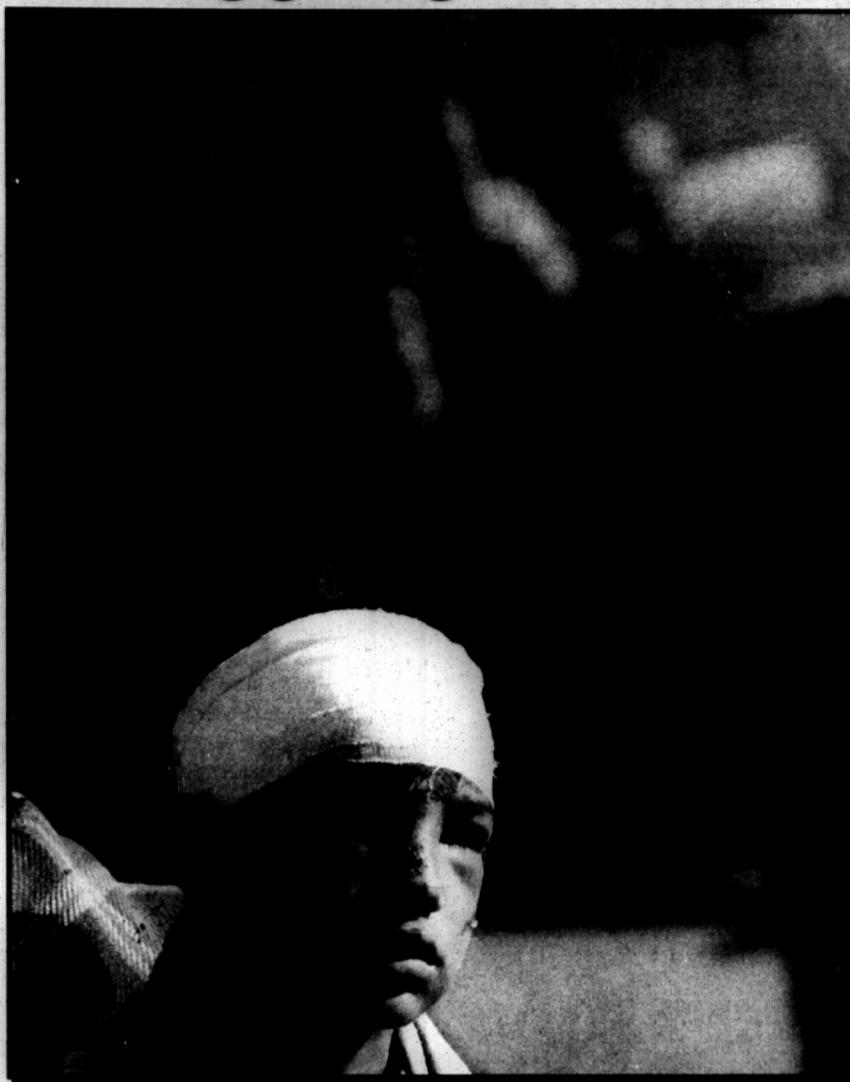
ISLAMABAD, Pakistan (BP) — Southern Baptist aid workers are contending with bone-chilling rains, roads jammed with homeless survivors and mobs desperate for help as they take relief supplies into the heart of Pakistan's earthquake-devastated Kashmir.

With 11 workers on the ground, more on the way — and \$150,000 in Southern Baptist disaster relief funds — the relief team is transporting truckloads of medical supplies, tents, and food into mountain areas near the epicenter of the worst earthquake in modern Pakistani history.

"Our people are getting into areas that other organizations aren't getting into because we know the local language," the team's coordinator said Oct. 11 from their temporary base in Islamabad, Pakistan's capital. "The U.N. and all the big guys are taking care of easy-to-get-to places. We're trying to get to places nobody will go."

"So many are homeless, and today it rained. People are huddled down under whatever kind of shelter they can find, so we're buying as many tents as we can find. We're sending daily truckloads of food up into these areas. We've chosen one village that seems to be overlooked and we're declaring it our responsibility to get them back up on their feet as quickly as possible. More than 68 people have died in this one village and God has impressed on us: This is ours, let's get these people in homes or at least shelters, let's get them food, let's get some doctors in there."

Getting there at all remains a challenge. The damaged village, a two-hour walk off a mountain



HEADED FOR HELP — An earthquake-injured boy waits to be evacuated in Muzaffarabad, Pakistan, four days after the 8.7-magnitude earthquake that shocked the region. (BP photo by Jewel Samad/AFP/Getty Images)

highway, lies beyond barriers of landslide debris left by the 7.6-magnitude quake and multitudes of homeless people crowding the road. Relief team members tried to reach the village in a Land Cruiser packed with tents and supplies, but traveled only eight kilometers in

three hours before turning back to a damaged Christian hospital where they are aiding survivors.

"The whole road is just full of people," another Southern Baptist worker explained. "Their homes have been destroyed and they're standing on the road, waiting for anything that comes by. We tried to stop and distribute some tents and it turned into a mob in about 10 seconds. We were trying to give tents to families, but at one time there were about 50 people gathered around the back of the Land Cruiser, almost attacking us."

"It reminds you of the Exodus. They're walking; they're on cars, on top of trucks. We couldn't get [to the village], so we turned around and came back to the hos-

pital. Last night we waited until it was completely dark and drove up a dry riverbed for quite a ways until we got to some villages on the side of the mountain. People were just sitting out on the edge of the riverbank. They had nowhere to go. We offered them some tents and made some good contacts."

Meanwhile, the team has set up a large tent on the grounds of the damaged hospital near the quake's epicenter. From that forward base, they're distributing food and tents to homeless families.

One of the Southern Baptist workers, trained in emergency first aid, is working in tent "clinics" with a Pakistani doctor and three German pediatric nurses. They're treating hundreds of injured survivors streaming in from flattened villages in the region.

"The injuries are all bad" a lot of broken bones, compound fractures, big lacerations," he reported after returning for the night to Islamabad Oct. 11. "The



THE SECOND FRONT PAGE

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THE BAPTIST Record

Christian student slammed

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — His speech has been called "appalling," "reprehensible," "an abuse of power," "disrespectful," and "embarrassing." What could have drawn such consternation? The outrage is over a convocation speech by Noah Riner, student body president of Dartmouth College in Hanover, N.H., a speech which employed the sinless example of Jesus Christ as how men and women can manage to display good character as they make their way through a sinful world. "Character has a lot to do with sacrifice, laying our personal interests down for something bigger," he said. "The best example of this is Jesus. In the Garden of Gethsemane, just hours before His crucifixion, Jesus prayed, 'Father, if Thou be willing, remove this cup from me; nevertheless, not my will, but Thine, be done.' He knew the right thing to do. He knew the cost would be agonizing torture and death. He did it anyway. That's character." Riner added that Jesus is the solution for sinners like him and all others and Jesus' message of redemption means there are consequences for actions. The next day, the vice president of the student body resigned, telling Riner, "Your first opportunity to represent Student Assembly to the incoming freshmen was appalling. You embarrassed the organization; you embarrassed yourself." Others heaved vicious criticism on Riner, including opinion pieces and cartoons in the student newspaper. R. Albert Mohler Jr., president of Southern Seminary in Louisville, Ky., addressed the debacle in his Oct. 7 commentary on albertmohler.com. "The controversy over Noah Riner's convocation address at Dartmouth is a bracing reminder of the fact that America's most prestigious academic institutions have become openly hostile to the very convictions upon which they were established," Mohler wrote, after noting that the predecessor to Dartmouth College was founded in 1750 for the purpose of evangelizing Native Americans.

three hours before turning back to a damaged Christian hospital where they are aiding survivors.

"The whole road is just full of people," another Southern Baptist worker explained. "Their homes have been destroyed and they're standing on the road, waiting for anything that comes by. We tried to stop and distribute some tents and it turned into a mob in about 10 seconds. We were trying to give tents to families, but at one time there were about 50 people gathered around the back of the Land Cruiser, almost attacking us."

"It reminds you of the Exodus. They're walking; they're on cars,

on top of trucks. We couldn't get [to the village], so we turned around and came back to the hos-

hospital is so damaged we can't go inside the building, because even this morning we had another [quake] tremor. So we're sitting in these tents and we didn't have enough supplies because the road was blocked.

"I splinted I don't know how many bones. We used little wooden vegetable crates. We broke those into pieces and used bed sheets for splints. If you can imagine broken bones sticking out of skin from injuries that happened 48 hours ago — and they've been carried down out of the mountains. Some of them were pretty bad off. You patch them up the best you can and send 'em home."

The Southern Baptist workers are urgently recruiting doctors and other medical volunteers to come to the area.

Looking back

10 years ago

Mississippi College and Mississippi Baptist Medical Center announce plans to introduce a new approach and concept in fitness, wellness, and community health improvement through the establishment of a comprehensive Healthplex on the Mississippi College campus in Clinton.

20 years ago

Tylertown native James L. Sullivan, former Southern Baptist Convention president and executive director of the Baptist Sunday School Board in Nashville for 23 years, is recognized at the Mississippi Baptist Convention as Clergyman of the Century.

50 years ago

Chester Quarles, executive secretary of the Mississippi Baptist Convention, is appointed chairman of the future program committee of the Southern Baptist Promotion Conference.

Lay Missions Conf., Banquet postponed

Due to the demands of Hurricane Katrina response and because of the focus on meeting the needs of pastors and church staff in the areas where destruction was so great, the Lay Missions Conference and Banquet scheduled for October 31 have been postponed. Please check www.mbc.org later for a rescheduling announcement, which will also appear in The Baptist Record.

WELCOME TO BARBOURVILLE



YOU CAN RESPOND
RIGHT NOW!

Simply share the following prayer with God in your own words:

1. Lord, I admit that I need you. (I have sinned.)

2. I want forgiveness for my sins and freedom from eternal death. (I repent.)

3. I believe Jesus died and rose from the grave to forgive my sins and to restore my relationship with you. (I believe in Jesus.)

4. By faith, I invite Jesus Christ into my life. From this time on, I want to live in a loving relationship with Him. (I receive Christ as my Savior and Lord.)

"But as many as received him, to them he gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in his name." (John 1:12)

If you make a decision for Jesus Christ today, contact a local Baptist church for spiritual guidance.

Within days after the explosion of wind and water called Katrina, our Governor was making plans to see a "Renaissance" take place on the Mississippi Gulf Coast. He wanted our people to rebuild and for our folks to be able to get back to work. A chief component of his strategy was to help the casinos reopen and to give them advantages so they could rebuild on the land. Years ago when the Legislature allowed the casino industry to come to our state, they carefully and artfully sold it to the people with the understanding that gambling would be controlled by tying casinos to the water. As a result huge, barge-like, floating, glitzy, gambling palaces were built. The casinos thrived floating on the waters of the Mississippi River and the Mississippi Sound. While the people of Mississippi are frequently reminded that about a half million dollars a day comes to the state coffers from this industry, seldom is it pointed out how much money is being made by the casinos that enable them to pay that kind of tax. Seldom is it pointed out what kind of tremendous losses people experience in order for that industry to enjoy the gains and profits which enable them to build larger and fancier facilities.

The conversations changed to point out that this was a legal and legitimate industry, and constantly highlighted all of the good that was being done by the dollars flowing into the state budget. Rarely did we hear people point to the dark side of this business, revealing that the only way that the casinos make their gains is by making losers out of the people who came there. *It is the very heart of the gambling enterprise that the house is always going to be the winner, and the people who come into the house will always ultimately be losers.*

In their efforts to make thoughtful, Bible believing



Directions

Jim Futral, executive director-treasurer
Mississippi Baptist Convention Board

Baptists look like self-righteous, wild-eyed radicals, they would ask questions like, "Who are you to tell other people how they ought to live or spend their money? Where in the Bible does it say that gambling is a sin?" While we are generally able to see the hurt and damage that comes from some other industries that drain resources, ruin lives, and destroy homes, through the years this enterprise has covered up its ugly side with a blanket of sound, lights, fun, and fantasy. Thereby, they have continued to promote themselves while appearing to be offering opportunities for everyone to get ahead.

So the Governor, the only person in the state who has this power, decided to call the Legislature into special session to give the casinos an even more solid footing in our state. His proposal was that the casinos be allowed to come off the water and on to the shore by a distance of 1500 feet. His persuasive argument to the body of men and women who make up our Senate and House of Representatives was, "What difference does it make if they are allowed to come just a few feet from where they already are?" That argument was coupled with his grand vision of the Mississippi Gulf Coast becoming a bigger and better than ever world-class resort destination.

Our position clearly stated that the law is in place and leave the casinos on the water. The casinos came knowing these are the perimeters and these are the grounds rules, but the proposal

was to change the rules and allow them to do much more. The chief executive officer of the state did not have to make that a part of the post Katrina agenda. According to Mississippi law, the casinos could have returned and operated under the same law that existed before the storm. However, the leader of our state could not and would not relinquish pursuing his vision of bigger and better casinos for the Mississippi Gulf Coast. What bigger and better is, I do not understand and he never said. I would love to have looked into the mind of the Governor so as to get a picture of what this is supposed to look like. It appears as though with agreement of the Legislature the people of Mississippi are going to have to buy it and build it before we get an opportunity to see Barbourville, Mississippi.

If bigger and better means more casinos, larger gambling venues, and higher and wider piles of the stuff they have already brought us, then it is a sad, dismal picture — but whatever the vision, this dream for the future was laid before the Legislature in a special called session. The people of Mississippi responded strongly and vocally to say to their representatives and senators, "We do not want the law to be changed." The voices of the constituents for the most part were ignored. I am so thankful for the men and women who thoughtfully and courageously tried to address some of the problems related to the issue in a frantic atmosphere of panic.

Something had to be done right now, or there would be no

future for our state. One change was made, a kind of compromise that reduced the 1500 feet on land to 800 feet. The majority of our legislators began to realize that if casinos could move inland from the coast and then also inland from the bayside of some cities, there would be little left of the towns, and so by their action Barbourville was reduced by almost half to 800 feet. Though the legislature did not ask to deal with this problem, I can tell you that the men and women who saw more than just money flowing into the state treasury and were able to recognize the difficulties that we will face in the future then had the courage to vote to keep the casinos where they were when they agreed to come, need to be applauded. It was no easy decision. They were pressured by influences, misrepresented by opponents, enticed by profiteers, and belittled by much of the news media. While they did not make the call for this expensive special session, they did show themselves to be people of character and courage to see past the expediency of the moment and desire to rebuild our coast on something more than just a one-dimensional industry whose chief desire is to take from people.

Let me conclude by giving you one don't and one do. Don't forget the men and women who tried to do the right thing. Often our elected officials make decisions believing that the electorate, you and me, will have short memories. Don't forget those who stood strong or those who went wrong. Do seek to be a well-informed citizen. This is your state, your government, your elected officials, and it is your job and mine to know what is taking place. We do need visionaries, but I do not believe we need Barbourville.

The author may be contacted at P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. E-mail: jfutral@mbcb.org.

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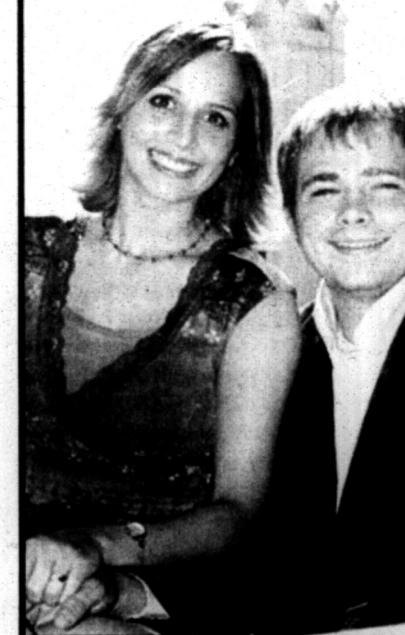
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JUST FOR THE RECORD

1. **Glenfield Church, New Albany**, ordained Steven Gray as deacon on Aug. 21.

2. **Border Springs Church, Caledonia**, ordained Mark Dodson, Bill Mixon, and Wilburn Beatty as deacons. Shown are Dodson, Mixon,

Beatty, and Glen Edmonds, pastor.

3. **Noxapater Church, Noxapater**, ordained Bill Stalcup and Marc McCool as deacons Sept. 18. Shown are Penny Stalcup, Stalcup, Carrie McCool, and McCool.

4. The children of **Cato Church, Cato**, participated in a God's Kids Club each night before their revival services in July. Shown are the children present at the last night of services.

5. **First Church, McLaurin**, ordained Pat Linton, Sonny Headley, and Neal Hennis as deacons. Shown are Linton with wife Debbie, Headley with wife Shirley, and Hennis with wife Roxanne.

6. **Border Springs Church, Caledonia**, held a ground breaking Apr. 17 for their multi-purpose building. Shown are the participants.

7. **Fellowship Church, Starkville**, will host a Fall Festival October 29 with a cookout beginning at 5:30 p.m., followed by a night of music and testimony with the Vega Family.

8. New Orleans Seminary will hold its Annual Mississippi Alumni Luncheon in conjunction with the annual meeting of the Mississippi Baptist Convention at **First Church Jackson**, at noon on Nov. 1. Tickets can be purchased at the seminary exhibit. For more information, contact Ben James toll-free at (866) 267-0719.

9. **Briarwood Drive Church, Jackson**, will conduct a Yard Sale on November 5, beginning at 6:30 a.m.

10. **Northcrest Church, Meridian**, will host Heaven's Gates and Hell's Flames on Nov. 6-8, 7:00 p.m. nightly; doors will open at 6 p.m.; free admission; first come, first seated. For more information call, (601) 482-3498 or visit www.northcrest-baptist.com.

11. **Providence Church, Carrollton**, will host Steve and Becky Carver of One Way Ministries of Mathiston in concert at 5 p.m. on Oct. 30.

12. **Liberty Church, Liberty**, will present Hallelujah Praise Time in the Family Life Center on Oct. 31 from 6-8 p.m. The event is open to children age birth through sixth grade.



1. Deacon Ordination for Gray, Glenfield Church, New Albany



2. Deacon Ordination for Dodson, Mixon, and Beatty, Border Springs Church, Caledonia



3. Deacon Ordination for Stalcup and McCool, Noxapater Church, Noxapater



4. God's Kids Club, Cato Church, Cato



5. Deacon Ordination for Linton, Headley, and Hennis, First Church, McLaurin



6. Groundbreaking Ceremony, Border Springs Church, Caledonia

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House Bill 45

By Jimmy Porter



Remember HB 45! Why? Because this bill has the potential to change the face of politics and politicians

in Mississippi for years to come. This bill has made many Mississippi Baptists and non-Baptists alike realize control of this state is quickly slipping into the hands of the gambling industry and their allies.

On Monday before the special session, Jim Futral, William Perkins, Lee Yancey, and I met with Governor Haley Barbour and asked him to omit land-based casinos as a part of the special legislative session designed to deal with the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina. His vision is for them to come back "bigger" and "better." His desire for the Gulf Coast is for it to become a resort area with the casinos being the anchors for future economic development. To Gov. Barbour,

moving the casinos inland a few feet doesn't matter because it is "good policy" even though it might cost him "some votes."

He not only put land-based casinos in the special session, but he pulled out all the stops to push HB 45 through the House and Senate. Our senators and representatives voted it in, but the one person most responsible for land-based gambling is Governor Haley Barbour. He tossed our legislature a very difficult and divisive bill and when it did not steam roll to victory, the troops (meaning the Mississippi Economic Council and the Mississippi Tourism Council, among many others) were called in to lean on the legislators.

The men and women who stood up to this pressure and voted against the expansion of gambling are to be commended. They knew where their constituency stood, and they stood with them. They were wise enough to see through the shallowness of the arguments offered by the casinos and their

supporters. Not a one of them had to go back home and justify their votes to their constituents.

It was an honor to stand alongside these men and women. Please contact them to say, "Thank You." (See list on bottom of page two.) They proved again what I have often said, "There are good men and women at the Capitol representing you and me who vote based on their Christian morals and values."

One such person is Representative Carmel Wells-Smith of Pascagoula, who serves on the Board of the Mississippi Baptist Christian Action Commission. She was the lone member of the Gulf Coast delegation who voted to keep the casinos over water. Thank you, Carmel, for your courage and for the courage of all your colleagues in the House and Senate who voted with you!

Mississippians need to know that the debate on HB 45 was filled with emotional rhetoric and very little substance. The gambling establishments, the supporters of the bill, and the news media made it clear that if anyone opposed land-based

casinos, they were denying jobs and keeping people homeless. They screamed that the casinos would leave. Just think about that for a moment. Would you leave a state that has the third lowest gambling tax rate in the nation? Would you leave a state whose regulatory agency appears to be your own private public relations firm? No!

The accompanying bill HB 44 dealt with tideland leases. It reduced the amount of revenue paid by the casinos to make improvements along the Coast, such as piers, parks, and reefs. The casinos not only wanted to move on land, they wanted to be there rent-free. It is all about the dollar. The gambling industry takes and takes and takes. Their thirst for money is never sated. Sad to say, but there are those in public office who would gladly give them the deed to Mississippi for a few more tax dollars.

How do people keep the state from being hijacked by the gambling and other special interest groups? First, get involved in the political process. Run for office. A few changes at the Capitol will be

a start in the right direction. Secondly, we must communicate more clearly and more often with our senators and representatives. Hold them accountable for their votes. That does not mean they have to vote as one person desires every time, but pay attention to their voting patterns. Finally, do whatever it takes to be informed about the issues that impact our lives — and by all means, go vote!

Martin Luther, the Reformation leader, said, "The church is the font of hope for all the world. Let her therefore never shrink back from the controversies and struggles of the day." The church must rise up and become a voice in the arena in which God has placed us.

For further information contact the Christian Action Commission at (601) 292-3329 or toll free outside Jackson at (800) 748-1651. E-mail at jporter@christianaction.com.

Porter is executive director-treasurer of the Christian Action Commission. He can be reached at jporter@christianaction.com.

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FAMILY BIBLE STUDY

Honor God in His Church

Ephesians 3:14-4:15

By Kevin Ivy

It has been said that more than 75% of Southern Baptist churches are plateaued or declining. While there are several factors that have led to decline in our churches, one problem lies within the church membership. A great number of church members are not living holy, committed Christian lives thus they are repelling prospects and are not being counted themselves. There is much in the secular world that competes with and wins church members' time and energy. Only a fraction of those who claim to be church members are fully and actively engaged in strengthening the church and assisting it to fulfill its commission. Those concerned with the downward trend in church attendance, must ask, "How can we honor



Ivy

God in His church?" Paul informs us of four ways we can honor God in His church.

1. Seek His Power: 3:14-16

Paul prayed that God would grant the Ephesians the power of His Spirit in their inner man according to the riches of His glory. Many, like Simon in Acts 8:18-19, believe that they can buy or earn the power of God with righteous living. While it is true that God uses clean vessels, it is equally true that even the cleanest vessels are only used because of His grace. He gives us His strength, not according to our good works, but according to the riches of His glory. Believers can depend on God to provide the strength to achieve His will and honor Him in His church.

2. Seek to Praise 3:20-21
God created mankind for His glory (Isa. 43:7). He redeems mankind for His glory (Isa. 66:19). His church is intended to be the instrument by which His glory is shown. God's foremost purpose in all things is to glorify Himself. God glorifies

Himself through the church by using the power that works within believers, to accomplish exceedingly abundantly above all that we can ever ask or imagine. The power of God makes it possible for any church, no matter how hopeless the situation, to bring glory to His name. After all, why would God inform us that He had such power at His disposal if it was not His intention to use it in the church today? We can believe God for His power to help the church bring glory to Him in Christ.

3. Seek to Practice: 4:1-6

Paul called the believers at Ephesus to practice what they preached by walking worthy of their calling. What does it mean

to walk worthy of our calling? According to verse two, it means to walk in lowliness. Lowliness is a gentle, meek humility. It also means to walk with long-suffering. We should be patiently willing to bear with one another. There are those who will drop out of church the first time someone hurts them or lets them down, but to walk worthy we must be lovingly patient with one another. Finally, not only are we to walk in lowliness and long-suffering, but according to verses three and four, we are to walk in loyalty. We are to walk in loyalty, not to the pastor and staff, but to the Lord and the faith. Loyalty to Christ demands loyalty to His body, which is His church. If we are to walk worthy of our calling we must seek to practice what we preach by being lowly, long-suffering and loyal.

4. Seek to Produce: 4:7-8, 11-15

Everyone who has been born again has been given grace gifts for the purpose of producing fruit (v. 7-8). According to verses 11-15, the

pastor is to equip the people by leading them to discover and use their gifts of grace. The people are to execute the ministry of the church by using their gifts to reach their Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria and world for Christ. Finally, we learn that the pastor is to equip the people to execute the ministry for the purpose of edifying the body of Christ. To honor God in His church, believers should seek to produce fruit for God's glory.

How can we honor God in His church? We can begin by seeking His power, by seeking His praise and glory, by seeking to practice what we preach, and by seeking to produce fruit for His Name's sake. If only the church members would commit to honor God consistently in these areas, church attendance would immediately increase and eternity would be dramatically impacted by the power of a consistent Christian testimony effecting society.

Ivy is a pastor of Fairfield Church, Moselle.

EXPLORE THE BIBLE

"United With Christ"

Romans 6:1-14

By Betty Davis

When Hurricanes Katrina and Rita devastated towns in Louisiana and Mississippi, we felt shock and dismay. Then, reality set in. All of us prayed for the victims. Charles and I were happy to open our home to five families whose homes were covered with water. Our own son's family lost everything. As soon as we could, we helped them remove debris and clean up what was left. You probably helped even those you didn't know in ways you could, to restore their homes and towns. Our efforts are united, in agreement, and in harmony with one another. We serve as "neighbors" to all. That's the way we should be personally in our relationship with God...united.

1. NEW RELATIONSHIP — (Romans 6:1-3)

As a minister's wife, I've been



Davis

privileged to serve in many ways at the churches my husband pastored. I love serving the Lord alongside my mate. One position I particularly enjoyed was the Baptism Committee. There is an excitement people have and express as they await their turn to slowly descend the steps to the waiting hand of their pastor. He smiles, and they feel more at ease. This is a way they can show the congregation that they are not ashamed to be a follower of Christ. During a worship service they had confessed to the church their intention to faithfully live a Christian lifestyle. They had assumed a new relationship in Christ Jesus. Paul had already preached that God's grace was very much enough to cover the forgiveness of all our sins (Romans 5:20). So, he had a ready answer to those who asked this question: "If we

continue to sin, won't God have more opportunities to show us His grace?" Paul's reply to them was (in today's language): "Hey, if we have died to sin, how do you think sin can keep having a grip on our lives?" His Biblical answer was, "God Forbid."

The decision wasn't just about continuing to sin, but about continuing in sin. The fourth verse draws this conclusion: "Therefore we are buried with Him by means of the baptism of death." The act of baptism depicts the death, burial, and resurrection of each participant. As one theologian phrased it, "It is not enough to know that Christ died for me; I must also know that I died in Christ!"

2. NEW LIFE — (Romans 6:4-7)

As Southern Baptists, we believe in the Lord Jesus Christ to receive salvation and eternal life. Then, we let our pastor and the church fellowship of people know of our decision. Following the command of Jesus to be baptized (immersed in water) we show the world our intention to

live the best way of life we can each day. I watch my husband as he baptizes with these words: "Upon your profession of faith, and in obedience to our Lord's command, I baptize you (name) in the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Dead to sin and buried with Christ, (immersed), raised to walk in the newness of life (coming out of the water)."

Baptism shows we are joined with Christ in the likeness of His resurrection (v. 5). A new life means we talk differently, change old habits, go other directions, and associate with new friends. New believers should be encouraged to make a commitment to living a new life.

3. NEW MASTER — (Romans 6:8-11)

By serving on the Baptism Committee, I could watch the children I taught in third and fourth grade Sunday School walk carefully into the water, get baptized, and come up the steps where I wrapped a towel around them and gave them a hug. They had a different look on their faces. They had a new master, and their smile made me know they were glad they did. Since

new believers have a close relationship with Christ, they grow to be like Him in every way and should serve Him faithfully. In Rome, baptism symbolized dying and rising again. A person died to one kind of life and rose to another. Keep in mind that Paul used language that his audience understood. To become a Jew a person had to do three things: sacrifice, be circumcised, and be baptized. When a Gentile entered the Christian faith, he was baptized only.

4. NEW LIFESTYLE — (Romans 6:12-14)

One commentary on Romans says, "Christianity is not an emotional experience; it is a way of life." We should never allow our bodies to be used as a device for sin. We should stay as close to God as possible by these methods: Pray, read God's Word, and depend on God's Spirit to lead us. If we have a new relationship with Jesus Christ, we must stay away from sinful temptations. We have a new life and a new master. We must maintain a new lifestyle!

Davis is a member of First Church, McComb.

Guidelines for submitting news and photographs

THE BAPTIST Record

The Baptist Record is pleased to publish news and photographs of special events that take place in cooperating churches of the Mississippi Baptist Convention.

News submitted for publication in The Baptist Record must be either (a) typewritten, (b) neatly printed on 8 1/2 by 11-inch paper, or (c) neatly printed on standardized forms provided by the newspaper. All articles must be received in writing; no articles will be accepted over the telephone.

News may be submitted electronically to the address below, and must be contained in the message segment of an e-mail form. Due to increasing virus threats, no text attachments will be accepted.

Photograph attachments are permissible.

Please make articles concise. Include the **who, what, when, where** details of the story, along with a contact person's address and telephone number.

Photographs may be color or black and white. Instant photos and digital printouts

are not reproducible. Digital photos may be used if submitted as a JPEG file via either (a) e-mail, (b) three-and-a-half inch floppy disk, or (c) CD. Photos must be clear, sharp, and well-lighted.

All news items are subject to editing, and all photographs are subject to crop-

ping. Photographs must depict people. No landscape, building-, or object-only photographs will be printed. News items and/or photographs can be published one time only. Deadline for submitting news is one week prior to requested publication date.

Articles that are not date-sensitive will be published on a space-available basis. Requests to return photographs must be accompanied by a self-addressed, stamped envelope.

Submit news and photographs to The Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. FAX: (601) 292-3330. E-mail: baptistrecord@mbcb.org.



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Clue: T = N
Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: John Twelve: Twenty-Four.

1. Hayes Ordination, Dry Creek Church, Magee



3. Deacon Ordination for Graham, Longino Church, Philadelphia

1. **Dry Creek Church, Magee**, recently ordained David Hayes into the Gospel ministry. Pictured are (from left) Ted Ainesworth, chairman of deacons; Kenneth Armstrong, pastor; David Hayes and wife Marsha.

2. Robert L. Frierson III was ordained into the Gospel ministry on Sept. 18 at **Calvary Church, Oxford**. The ordination service was conducted by Shannon Davis.

3. **Longino Church, Philadelphia**, ordained Doug Graham as deacon on Oct. 2. Pictured are deacons Sam Beckham, Steve Hancock, Phillip Marshall (pastor), Graham and his wife Allison, Danny Maxey, Wayne Nance, and Glyn Brunson.

ANNIVERSARIES

First Church, Carthage: 125th Anniversary Celebration; Oct. 30; Sunday School, 9:30 a.m.; Worship, 10:30 a.m. Covered dish lunch will follow. Jim Futral, guest speaker. Eddie Hamilton, interim pastor.

Gore Springs Church, North Central Association, celebrated its 50th Anniversary on Oct. 2, with over 230 in attendance. The day was dedicated to charter member Peggy Gillon for her years of service to the church. A complete church history was compiled, as well as a photo CD, and both are available for sale at: Church History, P.O. Box 116, Gore Springs, MS 38929.

COLLEGE NEWS

A tribute concert, Faith for the Journey, to celebrate **William Carey College**'s upcoming 100th anniversary will be presented Oct. 16 at 3 p.m. at the Westminster Presbyterian Church in Hattiesburg. Admission is free. The concert will feature the WCC Chorale; Carpenter's Wood; the Madrigal Ensemble; the WCC Handbell Choir; organ accompaniment by Kathy Vail, WCC assistant professor of music; solo performance by Don Frazure, WCC artist in residence and Metropolitan Opera tenor; and narration by Eugene Owens, WCC assistant professor of music and education.



Frierson

www.mbcb.org

STAFF CHANGES



Chris Twilley was installed on Sept. 11 as the fourth pastor of **I'm a n u e l Church, Cleveland**. He is a graduate of Blue Mountain College and Mid-America Seminary.



Franklin Creek Church, Moss Point, has called **Shane Terrebonne** as senior pastor effective Aug. 21. He is a graduate of The Baptist College of Florida and is pursuing a master in divinity degree through Southern Baptist Seminary Extension.

REVIVALS & HOMECOMINGS

Bellevue Church, Pontotoc Association: Revival, October 23-28; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon.-Fri., 7 p.m. Gerald Finley, guest speaker; Gerald Waldrop, music; Tommy Inmon, pastor.

Calvary Church, Natchez: Revival, Nov. 6-9; Sunday 11 a.m. and 6 p.m. Mon.-Wed., 6 p.m.; Sam Husser, evangelist; Sue Husser, music; Mike Harrigill, pastor.

Cedar Grove Church, Leakesville: Revival, Oct. 23-28; Jerry Lacefield of Kentucky, preacher; Bill Ricks, music. Greg Foster is pastor.

Cranfield Church, Roxie: Homecoming, Oct. 30; Sunday School, 9:45 a.m.; Worship 11

a.m.; lunch to follow; no night services. Tony Mullins, former pastor, preaching; special music by Sisters In Christ.

Liberty Church, Liberty: Revival, Nov. 4-6. Fri. and Sat., 7 p.m.; Sunday 11 a.m. followed by lunch and afternoon singing service. Chuck Kelley, guest speaker for Sat. and Sun.; Mack Amis Jr., speaker for Friday service. Jerrell Rogers, music. James Sadler, pastor.

New Hope Church, Sumrall: Homecoming, Oct. 23. Sunday School, 10 a.m.; Worship, 11 a.m.; lunch at noon; afternoon Worship, 1:15 p.m. No night services. Dale Patterson, guest speaker; Jeffrey Coulter, music.

EVENT STATUS UPDATES

three separate events on Oct. 13-15, Oct. 14-15, and Nov. 3-5, 2005.

- **Flake's Formula for the Future** – Biloxi Sunday School First Baptist Church, Biloxi Oct. 21-22, **Cancelled**
- **Missions Mobilization Celebration Banquet** Missions Mobilization First Baptist Church, Jackson Nov. 11, **Cancelled**
- **Missions Mobilization Conferences** Missions Mobilization Baptist Building Skyroom, Jackson, Nov. 12, **Cancelled**



The following list contains updated information on events. More events will be added to this list as soon as the information becomes available.

- **State Literacy Missions Workshop** Woman's Missionary Union Camp Garaywa, Oct. 13-15, **Postponed; rescheduled as**